

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A suturing device comprising:

a housing having a proximal end and a distal end;

a needle actuation handle disposed at the proximal end of the housing;

a movable handle;

a shaft at least partially disposed within a portion of the housing and extending distally from the distal end of the housing;

a needle movable within a needle lumen associated with the shaft and that extends toward a proximal end of the housing, the needle being attached to a length of suture, the needle having a tapered tip, the tapered tip being initially oriented toward the distal end of the housing; and

a suture cutting blade positioned on the movable handle~~housing~~ such that when the needle is withdrawn from the device, the suture can be drawn across the blade to sever the suture.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently Amended) The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing further includes a proximal end, and the moveable handle and the blade ~~are~~is positioned near the distal end of the housing.
4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The suturing device of claim 3, wherein the needle and the suture are withdrawn from the proximal end of the housing.
6. (Currently Amended) The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing further includes a proximal end, and the moveable handle and the blade ~~are~~^{is} positioned near the proximal end of the housing.
7. (Currently Amended) The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the blade is mounted on a[[n]] ~~outside of the~~ moveable handle~~housing~~.
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Currently Amended) The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the ~~device further comprises a movable handle~~ is configured to deploy a foot, and the blade is mounted on the ~~movable handle~~.
11. (Original) The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the needle has a distal end and the suture is attached to the distal end of the needle.

12. (Currently Amended) A suturing device comprising:

a housing having a proximal end and a distal end, and a hollow body having a proximal opening and an inner surface;

a suture cutting blade positioned on the inner surface of the proximal opening of the housing;

an elongate shaft at least partially disposed within the housing and extending distally from the distal end of the housing, the elongate shaft having a distal end region;

a needle actuation handle disposed at the proximal end of the housing;

a needle extending from the needle actuation handle, through the housing and further through a needle lumen associated with the shaft that extends toward the proximal end of the housing, the needle having a tapered tip, the tapered tip being initially oriented toward the distal end of the housing; and

a suture carried by the device, wherein a portion of the suture is positioned near the distal end region of the shaft such that the needle pulls the suture proximally to position the suture through tissue.

13. (Currently Amended) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the blade is positioned near the distal end of the inner surface of the proximal opening of the housing.

14. (Original) The suturing device of claim 13, wherein the needle pulls the suture through the proximal end of the housing.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Original) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the needle and the suture are withdrawn from the proximal end of the housing.

17. (Currently Amended) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the blade is positioned near the proximal end of the inner surface of the proximal opening of the housing.

18. (Currently Amended) The suturing device of claim ~~[[12]]~~20, wherein the blade is mounted on an end of the finger grip ~~the outside of the housing~~.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The suturing device of claim 12, wherein~~ A suturing device comprising:

a housing having a proximal end and a distal end and the housing includes a finger grip;

a needle actuation handle disposed at the proximal end of the housing;

a shaft at least partially disposed within a portion of the housing and extending distally from the distal end of the housing;

a needle movable within a needle lumen associated with the shaft and that extends toward a proximal end of the housing, the needle being attached to a length of suture, the needle having a tapered tip, the tapered tip being initially oriented toward the distal end of the housing; and

a suture cutting blade and the blade is mounted on the finger grip of the housing that is positioned such that when the needle is withdrawn from the device, the suture can be drawn across the blade to sever the suture.

21. (New) The suturing device of claim 20, wherein the housing further includes a proximal end, and the finger grip and the blade are positioned near the proximal end of the housing.

22. (New) The suturing device of claim 21, wherein the needle and the suture are withdrawn from the proximal end of the housing.

23. (New) The suturing device of claim 20, wherein the needle has a distal end and the suture is attached to the distal end of the needle.